



# CITY OF PUYALLUP

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City Council

March 19, 2020

To Our Puyallup Community:

The last two weeks have been tough ones. We've all had to learn new terms (social distancing, flattening the curve) and we've all experienced our day-to-day lives changing in ways we may never have imagined. We know that as much information is available to you regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, you're probably wondering what is happening behind the scenes here in Puyallup.

As members of the Puyallup City Council, we have confidence in your city staff, who began to address this situation with the utmost urgency even before any cases were confirmed to exist in Pierce County. They are working very hard to ensure the continued provision of all essential services. City staff are working across departments and divisions to fill holes and make sure needs are getting met. They will continue to do all of this, for all of us.

One key way staff was proactive at the outset was by forming a strategic Covid-19 response team which meets daily to share updates, evaluate current response measures, and assess what else must be done. This team is coordinated by the City's Emergency Management Manager and includes the City Manager, Police Chief, Public Works Director, Parks & Recreation Director, Human Resources Director, and Public Information Officer. It also often draws on other department directors such as the Information & Technology Director, City Attorney, and Finance Director. We are fortunate that our emergency manager came to Puyallup with a wealth of experience in emergency pandemic response, having worked for Santa Clara County, California during the H1N1 outbreak.

We continue to be in close communication with our partners at all levels: local (Central Pierce Fire & Rescue and MultiCare), regional (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Pierce County Department of Emergency Management), state (Washington Department of Health and Washington Department of Emergency Management) and federal (United States Congressman Denny Heck). The issues we are facing are wide-ranging and of great significance, and the conversations we are having on a daily basis are ensuring a unified and coordinated response to what is happening.

Although we've had to close numerous city facilities due to social distancing requirements, staff remains available by phone, email and social media to answer questions and address your concerns. The City's [website](#) is kept up-to-date with the latest information on city services and how to get in touch.

We understand that many of you are concerned about finances and the impacts of businesses being shuttered. Because the last thing we'd want to do is impose additional hardship on these already hard circumstances, the city has pledged to not issue utility shut-off notices during this time. [Puget Sound Energy](#) and [Comcast](#) have also announced they will not disconnect customers for non-payment during this time. And just yesterday, Governor Inslee declared a 30-day statewide moratorium on evictions for residential tenants. We hope these measures are of some relief. We are looking at other measures as well.

As we continue to do what we can to serve you, we ask that you call or email us to let us know what you need. We are your elected officials, but we are also your friends, neighbors and fellow community members. We're here for you, and we want to hear from you.

The other thing we ask of you is to please be there for each other. Few if any of us have lived through a time such as this, and we're quickly learning that it will take all of us uniting against this if we are to be as #PuyallupStrong as possible. There's no limit to how strong our community can be when we care about—and for—each other.

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